



ISTEP+/END OF COURSE ASSESSMENTS: COMPUTER-BASED OR PAPER PENCIL MODE?

Introduction

This document will assist with the challenge educators face when deciding whether a student should be taking the computer-based ISTEP+/End of Course Assessments or if there should be a request submitted to the Indiana Department of Education, Office of Student Assessment, to allow a student to take the state assessment in a pencil-paper format.

Background

The [Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act](#) (IDEA) of 2004 and [No Child Left Behind](#) (NCLB) call for students with disabilities to participate in the general education curriculum and in testing programs to the maximum extent possible for each student. IDEA 2004 mandates that all students with disabilities participate in statewide and district-wide testing “with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary and as indicated in their respective individualized education programs” (IDEA, 2004b).

In adherence with these federal regulations, the Indiana Department of Education, Office of Student Assessment, has published their established policies with respect to allowable accommodations that can be made on ISTEP+ for students with disabilities. This document can be found in Appendix C of the ISTEP+ Manual on the IDOE website at:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/achievement/assessment>

Challenge

Decisions about accommodations for the ISTEP+/End of Course Assessments must be made on an *individualized* basis, student by student, so the student(s) can best demonstrate what they’ve learned. Additionally, only those accommodations that students use routinely in the classroom should be used for testing so as to guarantee that students taking computer based testing are as familiar with their testing environment as those who use a pencil-paper mode. An equally important consideration is that skill in computer use be carefully evaluated to ensure the student is not at a disadvantage because of lack of access/ familiarity/basic computer skills (Trotter, 2011). The following Technology Skills Checklist for Online Assessment is intended for use in determining whether the paper-pencil or the computer based mode will best demonstrate the student’s knowledge and skills. (Keep in mind that the ISTEP+ test items require either a multiple choice response or an applied skills/open ended response.)



PATINS PROJECT TECHNOLOGY SKILLS CHECKLIST

FOR ONLINE ISTEP+ (MULTIPLE CHOICE) ASSESSMENT

Student _____ Date _____

Teacher _____ Grade Level _____

Technology Skills Needed for Computer-based ISTEP+ Multiple Choice

+ Check in this column each skill that the student currently demonstrates.

– Check in this column each skill that the student needs to acquire before taking the assessment in the computer-based mode.

Note: The number of skills needed from this checklist to warrant taking the computer-based assessment will vary depending on the individual student and the student's needed accommodations. However, the student will need to demonstrate each skill for **all the items** in the last section “**Interaction with ISTEP+ Computer-based Assessment**” for the student to be successful and effective in using the computer-based assessment mode. If all items in this section are not checked, consideration of the paper-pencil mode would be necessary.)

Needed Computer Skills	+	-
1. Student routinely has access to a computer for completing classroom instruction		
2. Move a mouse pointer on screen		
3. Use a mouse to single click		
4. Use a mouse to click and drag (for highlighting and use of online manipulatives (ruler, protractor, calculator)		
5. Navigate through the page using scroll bar		
6. Open/close a window		
7. Use screen reader software effectively and efficiently for navigation and reading and working with text (on allowed test items when needed as an assistive technology accommodation)		

Interaction with ISTEP+ Computer-based Multiple Choice Assessment	+	-
8. Type in user ID and password		
9. Use mouse click to navigate and choose to pause or stop the test, go on to the next item, mark an item for review and return to a test item		
10. Scroll to view complete passage, stimulus, and/or item		
11. Click button to indicate correct answer		
12. Click footnote icon to view footnotes in passages		



PATINS PROJECT TECHNOLOGY SKILLS CHECKLIST

FOR ONLINE ISTEP+/END OF COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Student _____ Date _____

Teacher _____ Grade Level _____

Technology Skills Needed for Computer-based ISTEP+/End of Course

+ Check in this column each skill that the student currently demonstrates.

- Check in this column each skill that the student needs to acquire before taking the assessment in the computer-based mode.

Note: The number of skills needed from this checklist to warrant taking the computer-based assessment will vary depending on the individual student and the student's needed accommodations. However, the student will need to demonstrate each skill for **all the items** in the last section "**Interaction with ISTEP+ Computer-based Assessment**" for the student to be successful and effective in using the computer-based assessment mode. If all items in this section are not checked, consideration of the paper-pencil mode would be necessary.)

Needed Computer Skills	+	-
1. Student routinely has access to a computer for completing classroom instruction		
2. Move a mouse pointer on screen		
3. Use a mouse to single click		
4. Use a mouse to click and drag (for highlighting and use of online manipulatives (ruler, protractor, calculator)		
5. Navigate through the page using scroll bar		
6. Open/close a window		
7. Use a word processor effectively to create a document/response.		

Needed Keyboarding Skills	+	-
8. Identify, locate, and use letter, number, and punctuation keys to enter characters		
9. Use enter/return key, delete key, backspace key and caps lock key		
10. Use space bar		
11. Use shift key		
12. Use number pad		
13. Use keyboard to type letters and numerals		
14. Use characters with reasonable accuracy (i.e. 85%)		
15. Use characters with reasonable speed (i.e. 11-15 words per minute)		



Interaction with ISTEP+ Computer-based Multiple Choice Assessment	+	-
16. Click in a text box		
17. Type in user ID and password		
18. Use mouse click to navigate and choose to pause or stop the test, go on to the next item, mark an item for review and return to a test item		
19. Scroll to view complete passage, stimulus, and/or item		
20. Click button to indicate correct answer		